




“The key to this miracle that we call Mobile Loaves & Fishes turns out to have everything to do with you!”

- ALAN GRAHAM, FOUNDER & CEO

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



A man with a long, flowing white beard and a blue plaid shirt stands outdoors in front of a building. He is wearing a blue baseball cap with the word "Goodness" on it. He is gesturing with his right hand, showing three fingers. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with trees and a building.

“Perhaps for the first time in my life, I know what it means to receive unconditional love because that is what I get here.”

- **BLAIR, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE
NEIGHBOR SINCE 2018**

Mobile Loaves & Fishes has been Serving Goodness for 25 years—and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

Since 1998, you have worked alongside us to bring immediate relief to our neighbors experiencing homelessness on the streets of Austin through our truck ministry. You have stood steadfast in support while proclaiming, “Yes, in my backyard!” when we began lifting our neighbors up and bringing them home to Community First! Village. You’ve given your best first to those who suffered a profound loss of family by helping to provide a permanent home while also surrounding them with a caring and compassionate community. Through your partnership with us, you continue to affirm our belief that housing alone will never solve homelessness, but community will.

Thank you for being that community.

In 2023, 112 men and women who were suffering on the streets of Austin moved home to Community First! Village. With your continued support, our neighbors are settling into their homes, cultivating a spirit of caring for themselves and others and finding their place of belonging in this community. Construction on the infrastructure for the Village expansion properties began. The Hog Eye Road property directly across the street from where we are now and the Burleson Road property will provide as many as 1400 additional homes, community buildings, and other shared spaces once complete.

Working together, we are mitigating homelessness in our city.

Because of your continued support, 369 formerly homeless neighbors were home in Community First! Village at the end of 2023.

Construction on our first 51 acres is complete with a total of 550 homes. We opened the Living Room for our neighbors — a place to gather and connect with visitors and volunteers to play games and share meals. It also houses the resource and service partners that our neighbors need to help them heal and restore their lives.

You are building a community where everyone belongs.

It is truly a miracle of God's grace that this ministry, started 25 years ago by five friends and a formerly homeless man, continues to expand to meet the needs of our city's most vulnerable neighbors. It is simply miraculous the vast number of people—compassionate people like you—that God has brought alongside us to serve our neighbors who are still suffering on the streets. You have joined our movement to mitigate homelessness by lifting our homeless neighbors off the streets into a permanent home in a caring community. Together, we have built Community First! Village into the flourishing neighborhood it is today!

YOU are one of the many miracles that have made Mobile Loaves & Fishes the ministry that it is today.

I was fortunate to spend several weeks walking the Camino de Santiago Trail in a time of reflection, renewal and gratitude for all that our God has done. I prayed for you and I prayed that God will continue to bless us and this work that we get to do together. I am so grateful for this miracle that is Mobile Loaves & Fishes and for your partnership in making this miracle real for our neighbors who need us most.

This is our Goodness Report for 2023. Please take some time to review all the goodness that is happening here because of you!

You are the goodness that is Mobile Loaves & Fishes and we are so grateful!

Blessings,



ALAN GRAHAM
FOUNDER & CEO



Our Vision & Mission

More than two decades ago, Mobile Loaves & Fishes' founders boldly answered God's call to "**Love your neighbor as yourself.**" – Matthew 22:39

Mobile Loaves & Fishes is a Christian social outreach ministry that empowers communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless.

Our mission to provide food and clothing, cultivate community and promote dignity to our homeless brothers and sisters is accomplished through our core programs: Community First! Village, Community Works and our Truck Ministry.

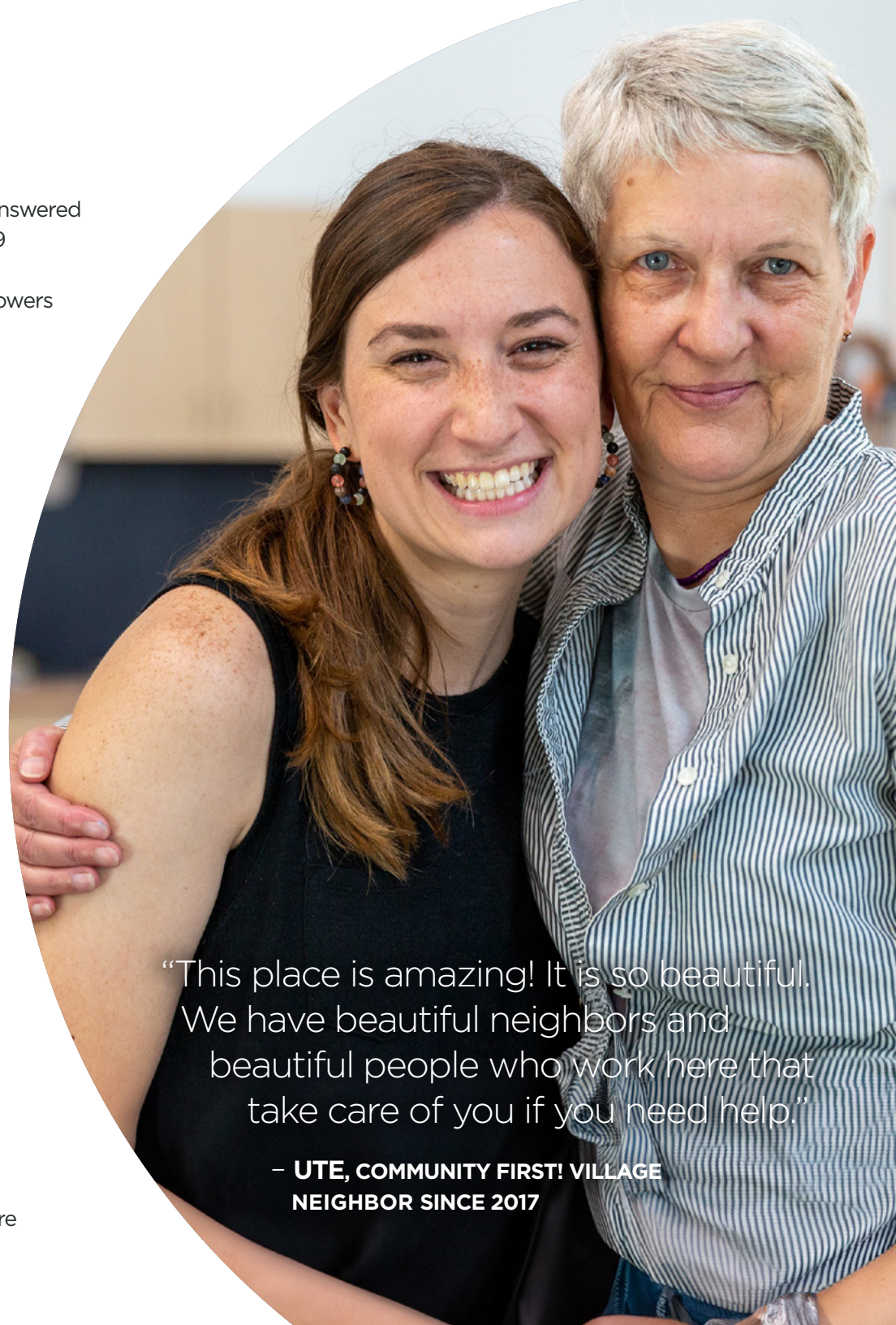
Through our years of serving alongside our homeless neighbors, Mobile Loaves & Fishes' staff and vast network of volunteers have made connections built on trust and we learned so much about our friends and their needs. We learned that they need much more than shelter to no longer be homeless. They need to be settled in a safe place with people who care and where they feel they belong. They need more than a house. They need a home in a supportive community. This is where they can truly begin transforming their lives and engaging in meaningful ways with their community.

Housing alone will never solve homelessness, but community will!

Mobile Loaves & Fishes promotes a culture that prioritizes relational connection. Every aspect of our work has the opportunity to be relational in a highly transactional world, and we use these transactions as the means to a relational end.

This begins with the **countercultural** love poured out by Jesus Christ and grows as imperfect people strive to show this love to each other human to human, heart to heart.

This culture flourishes as we continuously strive to fully embody our core values of faith, humility, generous spirit and integrity.



"This place is amazing! It is so beautiful. We have beautiful neighbors and beautiful people who work here that take care of you if you need help."

– **UTE, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE
NEIGHBOR SINCE 2017**

369
FORMERLY
HOMELESS
NEIGHBORS MADE
COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE
THEIR HOME.



MEET A COUPLE OF
YOUR VILLAGE NEIGHBORS!





“I don’t ever want to leave here. My home may be small, but it’s more than enough for me. I feel like I’m really living now!”

- **MISSISSIPPI**, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE
NEIGHBOR SINCE 2022

Community First! Village neighbor ‘Sippi,’ as he likes to be called, knows the power of a loving and supportive family. Raised by his mother and grandmother, he learned what it means to take care of each other, to work hard and to have faith in God. He made his way to Austin from Mississippi nearly 30 years ago and connected with his younger brother. However, through a storm of challenges and poor decisions made as a young man, Sippi found himself in and out of homelessness for more than a decade. Since moving into the Village, he has settled into life here by leaning on the lessons he learned from his family.

Most days you will find Sippi working with the hospitality team at the Community Inn making sure our Inn guests are welcomed warmly and that their accommodations are clean and comfortable. When he’s not working, Sippi enjoys riding his bike and hanging out with other neighbors shooting pool or playing ping pong in the Living Room.

After too many years on the streets, Sippi is home. He has found his place of belonging in this community of caring people.



You can hear more of Mississippi’s story on the Gospel Con Carne podcast at [MLF.ORG/SIPPI-PODCAST](https://www.mlf.org/sippi-podcast)

“God handed me heaven here. This is a beautiful place and I’m so grateful.”

– **EDDIE JEAN**, COMMUNITY FIRST!
VILLAGE NEIGHBOR SINCE 2022



Growing up on a ranch with her family in West Texas, Community First! Village neighbor Eddie Jean learned what hard work looked like at a young age. Today, she continues this strong work ethic and earns a dignified income by creating beautiful paintings and ceramic pieces through our Art House program, sometimes working on her art for 12-18 hours a day.

Although growing up with a loving family and creating her own beloved family, Eddie Jean’s life was not all “rainbows and butterflies.” After encountering a series of deaths in her family including the loss of her

daughter and her husband, Eddie Jean ultimately ended up homeless and living out of her car. Despite this immense grief and loss, she has always seen the light in her circumstances and leans on her faith in God to share unconditional love with everyone around her.

Today, Eddie Jean is safe at home in Community First! Village creating beautiful art, building a new life here and making her place in this community where everyone belongs.



You can hear more of Eddie Jean’s story on the Gospel Con Carne podcast at [MLF.ORG/EDDIE-JEAN-PODCAST](https://mlf.org/eddie-jean-podcast)



YOU ARE THE
community



IN
COMMUNITY FIRST!
VILLAGE.

Goodness is Love in Action!

Our missional neighbors, volunteers and donors always give their best first to our Village neighbors and our friends still living on the streets. As we strive to empower communities into a lifestyle of service with the homeless, we are incredibly grateful for the many ways you—our loyal community—show up to care for and support our neighbors who need us most.

“They are my adopted family. If I need someone to talk to or if I need anything, I know they will be there for me.”

– **EMILY, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE NEIGHBOR SINCE 2018**

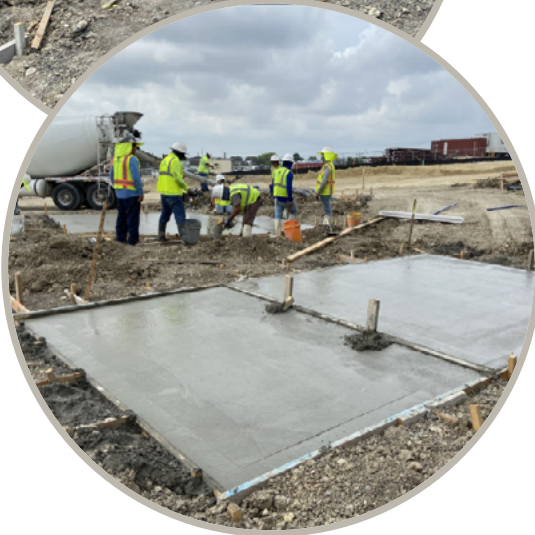




Community First! Village Expansion: Multiplying Goodness to provide more homes within this supportive community.

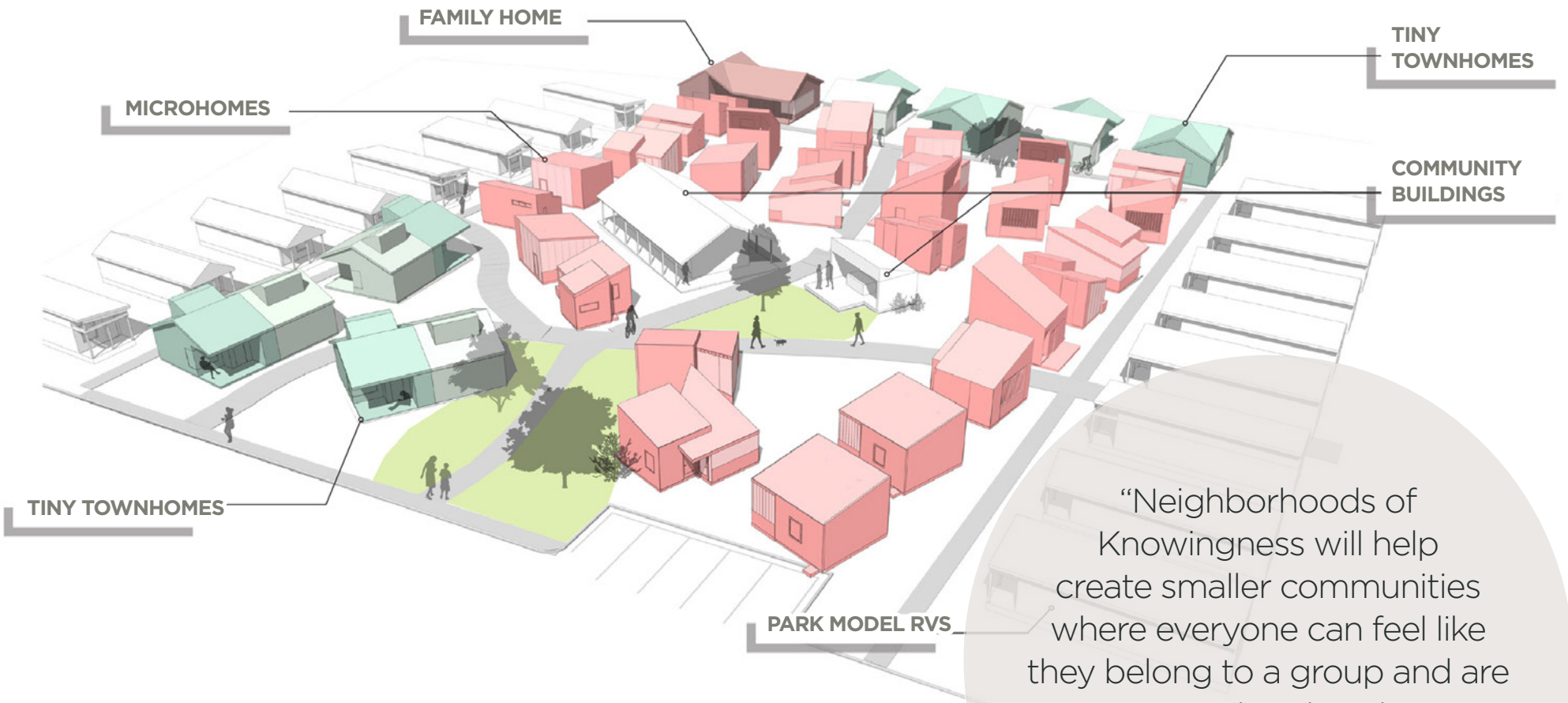
Because of its uniqueness, Mobile Loaves & Fishes' Community First! Village has become the most talked about neighborhood in Austin, Texas. The Village model has proven that it works. We know that homelessness can be mitigated by providing an affordable, permanent home in a supportive community. With our first expansion now complete, we know that our work is replicable and that our neighbors can thrive within this community. Still too many men and women suffer on the streets.

Construction on the infrastructure for the 51-acre Hog Eye Road expansion and the 76-acre Burseson Road expansion began in 2023. These two properties have room for 1400 additional homes. Once fully developed, Community First! Village will have room for 1900 homes spread across 178 acres.



Neighborhoods of Knowingness create “Communities within a Community”

The Community First! Village expansions incorporate a site design concept which MLF refers to as “Neighborhoods of Knowingness.” This approach divides the overall development into groups of 40-50 homes, comprising a mix of home models grouped around a common area and shared community buildings. This strategy builds on what we’ve learned about how shared spaces promote interaction and social connection. We believe that incorporating Neighborhoods of Knowingness will help to break down the large scale of the development allowing our neighbors to feel more connected to a smaller, more intimate circle of people.



“Neighborhoods of Knowingness will help create smaller communities where everyone can feel like they belong to a group and are connected to this place.”

- SARAH SATTERLEE, DIRECTOR OF ARCHITECTURE & SITE DEVELOPMENT

The Living Room Opens

“It’s a nice place to stay during the day. Nice people here too. I have fun, and there’s always plenty of coffee. I drink a lot of coffee.”

– **VIRGIL, COMMUNITY FIRST! VILLAGE NEIGHBOR SINCE 2021**

Because living in a tiny home can at times make having friends over to visit feel a little too cozy, we opened the Living Room in March of 2023. With more than 33 unique events and 104 recurring events in its first year of operation, this space allows our neighbors to gather for fun activities, engage with the community and more easily access various services and resources provided by our partners. The building includes a TV room, game room, computers and two program rooms for gatherings like music classes and Bible studies.



BY THE NUMBERS

This is the Goodness you made happen in 2023.

Thank you for serving alongside us, caring for our community, and helping us to continue to lift our neighbors experiencing homelessness up off the streets and bringing them home to Community First! Village.



Community First! Village:
A Place To Call Home

Construction Progress at Community First! Village

Through your loyal support, we completed the first expansion of Community First! Village in 2023. Our 51-acre property has homes for approximately 500 neighbors when fully occupied.



TOGETHER, WE'RE MULTIPLYING GOODNESS!

Construction began on the Community First! Village expansion properties in 2023. Progress continues as we work to move more men and women experiencing homelessness off the streets into a permanent home in a caring community.

5,799
COMMUNITY FIRST!
VILLAGE VOLUNTEERS

9,158
SHIFTS

28,998
HOURS OF SERVICE

Volunteers

Community First! Village volunteers help create beauty and a sense of home for our neighbors by supporting our various programs. Most importantly, when connecting with our neighbors, new relationships are made forging a strong and caring community for the good of us all. "You may come expecting to serve the formerly homeless, but you will leave knowing that you are the one that has been blessed." - Cindy, CFV Volunteer



Truck Ministry

Serving since 1998, MLF is the largest prepared feeding program for homeless men and women in Central Texas.

6.4+ MILLION MEALS

\$1,498,562
EARNED BY
190
VILLAGE NEIGHBORS

Community Works

Dignified income collectively earned by formerly homeless artists, makers, cooks, hospitality, maintenance and groundskeeping contractors through the Community Works program.

SHOP FOR GOODNESS, MLF's online store, sold our "Made in Community" products to customers in **44** states and added **\$32,059** to support our neighbors at Community First! Village.

COMMUNITY INN

In 2023, the Community Inn hosted **751** guests over **1094** nights, earning **\$102,507** for the Village.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

20% of our neighbors used MLF's Medical Transportation program to get safely to and from their medical appointments in 2023. This means **1,904** rides over **14,678** miles were given to **74** neighbors.

GENESIS GARDENS

\$96,000 of produce, eggs and meat were given to our neighbors in 2023 through our Genesis Gardens, Aquaponics and Hydroponics greenhouse, and generous donations by fresh food vendors and volunteers.

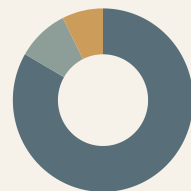
HOLIDAY MARKET

\$67,299 of products sold during our Holiday Market, helping to support our artists and makers who live in the Village.

COMMUNITY CINEMA hosted **20** movie nights, bringing more than **1317** guests to the Village.

Financial Data

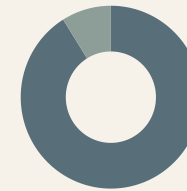
By keeping operating costs low, MLF put **83%** of all money raised directly into providing services for our homeless brothers and sisters.



PROGRAM SERVICES
FUNDRAISING
MGT & GENERAL

	TOTAL EXPENSES	% OF TOTAL EXPENSES
PROGRAM SERVICES	\$15,610,008	83%
FUNDRAISING	\$1,739,513	9%
MGT & GENERAL	\$1,378,211	8%
TOTAL	18,727,732	100%

STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES 2023



TOTAL ASSETS	\$190,510,437
TOTAL LIABILITY	\$18,563,147
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$171,947,290

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION 2023

3,200
NEW DONORS



JOINED
OUR COMMUNITY

Thank
You!
YOU MAKE THE
GOODNESS HAPPEN.

EVERYDAY ANGELS



1,304
DONORS PROVIDED
MONTHLY SUPPORT



Television journalist Harry Smith visited Community First! Village in March of 2023 for a feature story that was broadcast on the Today Show on Good Friday.

“In Austin, Texas there is a community that very well might be an answer to a problem plaguing cities coast to coast.”

– HARRY SMITH, CORRESPONDENT, NBC NEWS



Mobile Loaves & Fishes
Serving Goodness.®

mlf.org
give.mlf.org

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#ServingGoodness